KIM JONG IL

STRENGTHENING THE PEOPLE'S ARMY IS AN ESSENTIAL GUARANTEE FOR VICTORIOUSLY ACCOMPLISHING THE REVOLUTIONARY CAUSE OF JUCHE

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Talk to Commanding Officers of the Korean People's Army
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Strengthening the People's Army is an essential guarantee for victoriously accomplishing the revolutionary cause of Juche pioneered by the great leader President Kim Il Sung.

A revolution begins, advances and is completed by force of arms. This, we can say, is a principle and formula of the revolution. Unless it has its own powerful revolutionary armed forces and relies on them, a revolutionary party cannot pioneer the cause of independence for the masses of the people, the socialist cause, nor defend the gains of the revolution, nor carry the revolution to ultimate victory.

The history of the international revolutionary struggle for accomplishing the cause of independence for the masses of the people, the socialist cause, has taught us the serious lesson that without being in control of revolutionary armed forces and relying on them, a party of the working class cannot carry the revolution to victory, and the revolutionary cause pioneered and advanced at the cost of blood is led to setback and failure.

Even though some parties in several countries where socialism collapsed have recently been conducting a movement to revive it, they are failing to exercise much influence on the politics of their countries because they are not in control of the armed forces. Simply by increasing their number of seats in parliament, they cannot achieve the ideal of reviving socialism.

The history of the revolutionary struggle of the great leader President Kim Il Sung is the history of the Songun-based revolutionary leadership of founding an army first and, by relying on it, carrying the revolution and construction forward to victory.

In the early days of his revolutionary struggle he put forward the unique line of armed struggle and organized a revolutionary armed unit. He waged the anti-Japanese armed struggle in the face of the wind and snow of Mt. Paektu for 15 years, finally

defeating Japanese imperialism and accomplishing the historic cause of national liberation. Even after accomplishing the historic cause of national liberation, he still directed his primary efforts to strengthening the revolutionary armed forces and advanced the revolution and construction by relying on force of arms.

Because he led the Korean revolution by dint of Songun leadership, we could inflict a serious political and military defeat on the US imperialist aggressors, who boasted of being "the strongest" in the world, in the Fatherland Liberation War, achieve great victories in postwar reconstruction, the socialist revolution and socialist construction, and write a new history of epochal changes and prosperity on this land where backwardness and poverty had prevailed.

Attaching importance to arms, to force of military affairs, is a principle of our Party in leading the revolution.

By brilliantly carrying forward Kim Il Sung's Songun-based revolutionary leadership, our Party has consistently channelled primary efforts into developing the People's Army into an invincible revolutionary armed force which can defeat any imperialist aggressors and firmly guarantee the security of the country and the people. In particular, in view of the requirements of the current situation when the anti-DPRK and anti-socialist manoeuvres of the imperialists and other reactionaries have reached an extreme, it has devoted even greater efforts to raising the People's Army as the buttress and main force of the revolution and to developing it into an invincible revolutionary armed force, and ensuring that the climate of attaching importance to force of arms, to military affairs, prevails throughout society.

Thanks to the Songun-based revolutionary leadership of our Party, the People's Army has developed into an invincible revolutionary armed force that is boundlessly faithful to the Party and the leader and is performing with success its mission and duty as the main force of the revolution in the struggle to carry

the Juche cause forward to victory; all the people are keenly aware of the value of the force of arms and have turned out as one in the struggle to increase the military might of the country.

Today our country is advancing vigorously upholding socialism along the path of Juche without any vacillation in the face of the vicious anti-DPRK and anti-socialist moves of the imperialists and reactionaries; this is a brilliant achievement of the Songun-based revolutionary leadership of the Party. It is true that in recent years the country's economic situation has been very difficult and the people are experiencing many difficulties in their lives owing to the imperialists' economic blockade and successive natural calamities over several years. But if we ignore even for a moment the work of strengthening the People's Army while making light of military affairs on the excuse of the country's difficult economic situation and the hard life of the people, we can neither defend the Party and government, nor revitalize the national economy, nor guarantee the people's happiness and the future of the country. In order to defend the socialist cause to the last and demonstrate to the world the dignity and might of the country and people, we must direct primary efforts to strengthening the People's Army.

It is my immutable faith and firm will to bring to completion the revolutionary cause of Juche pioneered by Comrade Kim Il Sung by force of arms.

What is important in strengthening the People's Army into an invincible revolutionary armed force that is boundlessly faithful to the revolutionary cause of Juche is to rally the whole army closely behind its Supreme Commander in one ideology and will.

The revolutionary cause of Juche can advance and be completed by dint of the single-hearted unity of the Party, army and people, centred on the leader. The People's Army, the pillar and main force of the revolution, must also play the leading role in strengthening the single-hearted unity of the leader, the Party

and the masses and displaying its might; to this end, the whole army must be rallied closely behind the Supreme Commander. The People's Army must think and act solely in accordance with the ideology and will of its Supreme Commander, and staunchly support and defend his ideas and leadership.

It is important to equip the cadres and rank and file of the People's Army firmly with our Party's experience in the anti-factionalist struggle.

We must not forget the historical fact that conspirators and over-ambitious people lurking in the Party, raised their heads and challenged the Party in collusion with one another ideologically and organizationally whenever the situation was complex and the revolution faced ordeals, nor must we allow ourselves to believe that such things will not happen again.

We are now carrying on the revolution and construction under more difficult circumstances than in the postwar period, which was the hardest and severest time in the Korean revolution. However, very few officers in our People's Army were steeled and tested in the crucible of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, the Fatherland Liberation War and postwar reconstruction. Among those in their forties and fifties who form the vast majority of People's Army cadres, many are not fully aware of how our Party has led the revolution to victory by weathering rigorous storms, how our Party combated the anti-Party, counterrevolutionary factionalists, and even how great is the harm done by factions.

The People's Army must work proactively and effectively, using various forms and methods, in conducting the ideological education of the cadres and rank and file in order to make them fully aware of our Party's experience in the anti-factionalist struggle and to raise to a higher level the unity and cohesion of the whole army in ideology and will, centred on their Supreme Commander. They should be given a clear understanding of the

cunning tricks and counterrevolutionary crimes of the anti-Party, counterrevolutionary factionalists in particular, so that they approach with high Party-oriented and class awareness even the slightest factional act of disrupting the unity and cohesion of the Party and the revolutionary ranks, and smash it thoroughly through a timely, sharp struggle.

The People's Army must work to give prominence to military commanders and ensure their authority.

I consider military commanders to be very important. They are the backbone of the People's Army and are responsible to the Party for their military units and sub-units. If it is to increase its political and military might and perform its missions and duties as the pillar and main force of the revolution, the People's Army must give prominence to its military commanders, the backbone of its military units and sub-units, and ensure their authority. This is necessary at all times if we are to ensure that they fulfil their assigned tasks in a future war.

However, some officers of the General Staff and the General Political Bureau of the People's Army are not working effectively to ensure the authority of corps, division and brigade commanders. They must approach corps, division and brigade commanders and other military commanders with modesty, and ensure their authority.

Political officers must be exemplary in giving prominence to military commanders and ensuring their authority. For political officers to ensure the authority of military commanders and support them politically is important in combining military and political work and achieving the unity of the revolutionary ranks; it is also a principled demand of the Party's political work in the People's Army. By nature, I dislike political officers giving prominence to themselves, pushing military commanders aside. Political officers must neither tail behind military commanders nor work like secret royal inspectors did in the feudal age. As

President Kim Il Sung said, the political officers of the People's Army must give prominence to the military commanders like the political commissar did in the Soviet film *Chapayev*, do their work in a Party-oriented, political way, and ensure their authority.

Officers of the People's Army must not abuse their authority or boss others around.

Abusing one's authority and bossing people around are extremely harmful, in that such malpractices damage the single-hearted unity of the revolutionary ranks and weaken their fighting efficiency. If officers of the People's Army abuse their authority and boss people around, issuing orders at will, the command system of the Supreme Commander cannot be established properly and the relations between officers and men will be undermined.

Even though the People's Army has in the past frequently conducted ideological education and waged a struggle on many occasions against those malpractices, some officers are still abusing their authority and bossing people around. These malpractices are revealed glaringly among senior officers and officials in the judicial organs. The People's Army must issue another warning against officers abusing their authority and bossing people around, and wage an uncompromising struggle against even the slightest manifestation of them.

The People's Army must deal properly with officers of merit in the final days of their careers.

There are many officers of merit who have devoted their all faithfully to strengthening and developing the People's Army ever since they first wore a military uniform as youngsters. They are treasures of our Party and must be taken good care of. Taking proper care of them in the last days of their careers produces a marked effect on further deepening the trust of not only the officers themselves but also their children and the following generations in the Party and rallying them still further behind the

Party. If this work is not handled properly, it may exert a negative influence on their children and the following generations.

We must approach the question of the people's political integrity carefully from the viewpoint of the Party's authority and single-hearted unity, and deal with it properly. I recently learned that the People's Army had discharged an officer who fought the enemy well, working as the senior delegate from our side to the Military Armistice Commission. Because he worked there for such a long time, both our people and the enemy know him. The General Political Bureau of the People's Army must inquire where he and his children are and what they are doing now, and submit a report to me.

The People's Army must work effectively to strengthen military discipline and prevent accidents.

Strengthening military discipline is an important requirement for establishing the command system of the Supreme Commander and perfecting the combat readiness of the army. If the army fails to strengthen its discipline, it cannot prevent accidents and bad behaviour or win victory in the fight with the enemy.

The People's Army must take decisive measures to strengthen military discipline and prevent accidents. It must strengthen ideological education among the service personnel so that they voluntarily observe the discipline, and strengthen oversight and control over those who violate the discipline.

Close and continuous attention must also be paid to the work of improving the living conditions of service personnel.

I intend to have the first live cattle raised at the Songam Myonggi Cattle Farm sent to units I have inspected recently, units guarding the frontline and other key units of the People's Army on the occasion of the Day of the Sun this year.

The People's Army must direct great efforts to improving the work with officers' wives.

Strengthening this work is highly important in perfecting the

combat readiness of units and improving the living conditions of service personnel. Although most of the officers' wives were evacuated and lived in safe areas during the Fatherland Liberation War, officers' wives today must not only cook for the combatants and carry ammunition and food to them but fight, rifle in hand, alongside their husbands in the trenches.

The People's Army must step up the work of transforming officers' wives along revolutionary lines in order to prepare them to defend at the risk of their lives the leadership of the revolution in any adversity and to turn out in the sacred war for national reunification together with their husbands in times of emergency. Recently I have spoken on several occasions about briskly conducting artistic activities among them; the main intention is to push ahead with their revolutionary transformation and with imbuing the whole society with revolutionary optimism. If they live full of confidence and optimism, singing and dancing, in the present trying days, it will be good for accelerating their revolutionary transformation and for encouraging all the service personnel of the People's Army and people, who have risen up as one in the struggle to implement the militant slogan of the Party, "Forward on the forced march for final victory!"

The traditional trait of army-people unity must be displayed at a high level.

Achieving army-people unity is a primary task in preparing for war. The essential guarantee for victory in war is the unity of the army and people. In the anti-Japanese armed struggle and the Fatherland Liberation War we defeated a numerically and technically superior enemy through the united efforts of the army and people. In order to wipe out the US imperialist aggressors and the south Korean reactionaries and reunify the country, we must always uphold the slogan of army-people unity.

We must achieve the integrated whole of the army and people. Some civilians think that army-people unity can be realized simply if

they send aid goods to the army; but the army-people unity I mean is not something so pragmatic. Although it is important in achieving army-people unity that the army helps the people and the people aid the army with all sincerity, the main thing is to realize the unity of thought and fighting spirit between the army and people. Our army-people unity is, in essence, unity between the army and people in thinking and will with the Supreme Commander at the core. The army and people must become one in the way they struggle and their work attitude. If unity is achieved between the army and people in thinking and fighting spirit, there is nothing to fear, however formidable may be the enemy that pounces on us.

The People's Army must pay close attention to information work via radio broadcasts.

The radio is a powerful weapon in propagating the Party's policies and a means of mass communication with great power of propagation and influence. Conducting information work well through radio broadcasts is more important in wartime. If the work is done well in wartime, it can inform the service personnel and people promptly and accurately of the Party's strategic and tactical ideas and intentions, the situation at the front and combat results, and powerfully encourage them to victory in the war. Any country's army, being well aware of the influence of information work conducted through radio broadcasts, attaches great importance to seizing the enemy's radio stations as a priority in wartime and conducting information work through them. During the Fatherland Liberation War the brave tankmen of the People's Army seized the enemy's radio station first in liberating Seoul and put our news on the air, instilling confidence in victory and courage into the fighting soldiers and people. We must decisively strengthen our information work through radio broadcasts.

A system must be established for downloading onto computers data concerning all the motor vehicles in the People's

Army and managing them. If the kinds of motor vehicles, the units they belong to and other data are put into computers, the data can be easily and instantly retrieved, to the benefit of managing the motor vehicles and ensuring prompt military action.

I am told that the director of a department of the General Staff of the People's Army has not yet completely recovered, even after receiving medical treatment abroad. According to the hospital that conducted a reexamination, hot-spring therapy will help his condition. He should be sent to the proper place for treatment.

I am told that a son of an official who worked for the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea before his death joined the People's Army after graduating from the Mangyongdae Revolutionary School and is now a battalion commander; he is praiseworthy. We must educate and help him well so that he is trained as an outstanding officer.

I am told that the husband of a woman operating the switchboard at the Wolbisan Power Station died while repairing equipment in an effort to prevent even a moment's interruption to the command of the Supreme Headquarters over the frontline units; he should be highly praised. The action of the woman in working in place of her dead husband at the power station switchboard is also commendable.

In creating craftworks, the Juche character must be preserved. I am told that craftworks are currently being made of imported materials; we cannot say such craftworks are our own. Our craftworks must be made of materials from our country. When everything, including the raw materials, needed for manufacturing objects such as Koryo celadon are obtained in our country, the products will be truly ours. This is not a matter of saving foreign currency, but a matter of principle to be maintained by all means from the viewpoint of the Juche character. In future this principle must not be violated in creating craftworks.